

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 27, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. POWELL submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 225.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Annie D. Reeves, widow of J. S. K. Reeves, deceased, late captain in the first regiment of United States artillery, report:*

That it appears from the rolls, that Captain J. S. K. Reeves, deceased, the husband of the petitioner, was appointed second lieutenant of the first artillery, July 1, 1838; first lieutenant, June 21, 1839; captain, April 1, 1850; and died, February 22, 1851.

The petitioner applies for a pension on the ground that her husband died of injuries received while in the line of his duty, in the service of the United States.

Charles McDougall, surgeon, of the United States army, certifies that Captain Reeves was under his professional treatment from June, 1846, to June, 1848, for disease of the left testicle, caused by an injury received while on drill at Fort Adams, Rhode Island, sometime in 1845, which he believes was the cause of his death, in February, 1851. C. H. Wheelingsly, surgeon, of the United States Navy, who attended Captain Reeves, at Pensacola, in 1846, states: "I have never doubted but that the injury which ultimately caused his (Captain Reeves's) death was received in the line of his duty." (See statements of surgeons McDougall and Wheelingsly.)

At the time of his death no report was made by a medical officer, as he did not die at a military post. Acting Surgeon General R. C. Wood, United States army, states that the certificate of Surgeon McDougall is, in his opinion, entitled to all the credit that would be given to a similar statement from the records of the surgeon general's office. Captain J. Jones, United States army, states that Captain Reeves was ordered to Pensacola, Florida, in anticipation and preparatory to the war with Mexico, and that his health was so much impaired that he was unable to go with his company to Mexico, and was assigned duty at West Point. That he was at the post with Captain Reeves when he received the injury, went with him to Pensacola, and was subsequently with him between three and five years during his illness, and never

doubted that his disease was caused by the injury he received while drilling his company at Fort Adams. Under the general laws relating to the peace establishment, pensions are granted to widows whose husbands die by reason of any *wound* received in actual service. Had petitioner's husband died from wounds, injuries, or disease contracted in any war, she would have been entitled to a pension for life, under the general law. We are of the opinion that the case of the petitioner comes within the spirit, if not the letter of the law; that her case is a meritorious one.

Your committee report a bill for her relief, and ask its passage.